Valley Forge

Welcome to Valley Forge National Historical Park

National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior

Valley Forge National Historical Park



What To Do While You're Here

Welcome Center

Open Daily 9am - 5pm - Tour Stop #1

"Determined to Persevere"

Explore this themed exhibit which displays and explains artifacts used by General Washington and the soldiers during the Revolution.

"Valley Forge: A Winter Encampment"

View the 18-minute film that tells the story of the men and women who built and lived in the log city of 1777-1778. Shown in the theater every half-hour.

Become a Junior Ranger

Purchase your activity book at the Encampment Store and start exploring. "The Continental Soldier" program allows you to learn about the 1777-1778 encampment and its people. Once completed, return to the Welcome Center for your official Junior Park Ranger certificate and badge.

Lunch and Learn Summer Talks

Wednesdays, June 23 - July 28 • 12pm - 1pm

The Friends of Valley Forge in cooperation with the Park invite you to bring a bag lunch and be entertained by a different guest speaker each week. Complimentary lemonade provided by the Friends.

Following in Their Footsteps: A Ranger-led Walk

Daily 10:50am and 1:50pm

Join a ranger for a 40-minute guided walk from the Welcome Center to Muhlenberg Brigade to hear about the significance of Valley Forge in the American Revolution.

Encampment Store

Stop by for one-of-a-kind gifts, souvenirs and a light snack.

Mini-Bus Tours of Valley Forge

Enjoy a 90-minute guided tour of Valley Forge National Historical Park in the comfort of a 20-seat Mini-Bus. Tours depart from the Welcome Center Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday at 10am, 12pm and 2pm. The bus tour features stops at key landmarks throughout the park staffed by historical interpreters including Muhlenberg Brigade, George Washington's Headquarters (includes tour of Headquarters) and Washington Memorial Chapel.

Tour Pricing (includes Headquarters admission fee)

Adults\$15.50
Students (ages 12-16) or National Park Pass Holders \$10.50
Children under 12

For information about the tours at Valley Forge please call 610-783-7503. Program provided in partnership with the American Revolution Center at Valley Forge, the Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau and by a grant from the Ford Motor Company, Proud Partner of the National Parks and the National Park Foundation.

Muhlenberg Brigade

Open Daily 10am - 4pm — Tour Stop #2

Costumed interpreters help you understand what life was like in the camp. Join a ranger talk at 11:30am and 2:30pm to hear about the skilled and capable soldiers. Learn first-hand about the skills that enabled the troops to establish and maintain a fortified post in the face of the British.

Wednesday Evening Campfire Programs

Wednesdays, July 7 - August 11 • 8:30pm - 9:30pm

Gather around the campfire as dusk settles in to hear rangers present programs on a variety of topics on the American Revolution at Valley Forge.

Washington's Headquarters

Open Daily 9am - 5pm — Tour Stop #5

Visit the house George Washington used as his headquarters. Here General Washington and his staff performed the vital work that held the war effort together during the winter of 1777-1778. As you walk the grounds, read the wayside exhibits and learn about life in the village of Valley Forge. Admission tickets are available at the fee booth located on the walking path heading to Washington's Headquarters. Admission is \$3.00 per adult (children 16 years or younger enter free). National Parks Passes are honored and available.

Varnum's Quarters

Open Weekends 12pm - 4pm

Visit the house where General James Varnum quartered and see the Grand Parade where Baron von Steuben trained the troops. Discover the role played by general officers, civilians, and the African American soldiers who billeted nearby.

Washington Memorial Chapel

Monday - Saturday 9am - 5pm Sunday 1pm - 5pm

This home to an active worshipping community was built as a tribute to George Washington and his service to the country. Designed in the Gothic Revival style, the chapel features beautiful stained glass windows which depict the lives of Christ and George Washington, as well as the history of the western world. Their warmth and delicacy rival the European masterpieces that served as inspiration.

The chapel complex is also home to the **Chapel Cabin Shop** and the **World of Scouting Museum**. For information on the Wednesday evening and Sunday afternoon carillon concert series, Friday evening organ concerts and other activities, contact the Chapel at 610-783-0120.



Don't Miss These Special Activities

Special Activities

July

Saturday Morning Kids Program

Saturday, July 10 & 17 and August 21, 11am

Hands-on activities and hiking programs will highlight how park staff and volunteers are helping to protect and restore the lands and wildlife of this special place. Tons of fun for kids of all ages! For program details, meeting locations, and additional dates, please call 610-783-1077 or check our website at www.nps.gov/vafo.

The Continental Artillery: A Cannon Firing Demonstration

Sunday, July 4th, 1 pm (45 min.) Artillery Park - Tour Stop #8

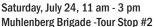
Gun and artillery crews played a noteworthy part in the battles of the American Revolution. See a cannon firing demonstration and learn more about the artillery's role in our country's struggle for independence.

Henry Knox and the Big Guns

Saturday, July 17, 1 pm (1 hour) Education Center - Tour Stop #1

It comes as no surprise to many when they learn of the discipline, organization, and sophistication of the artillery arm of the Continental Army throughout the War of American Independence. Visit with a park ranger as he explains the history and use of both garrison and field guns and the contributions of Artillery Chief Knox.

Bread for Washington's Army: Baking Demonstration



While Washington's army did not always get a full meat, rum and vegetable ration, they could always count on bread. Feeding the multitude at the Valley Forge Encampment required the hard working bakers to run the bread ovens at full speed in order to deliver the one-pound bread ration to all. Come see our bakers at work at their oven and experience how this was done.

Doctor Franklin and Valley Forge

Saturday, July 31, 1 pm Education Center - Tour Stop #1

Although Benjamin Franklin was over 3,000 miles away in France during the 1777-1778 Valley Forge encampment, his impact was still felt. Without him, Baron von Steuben would not have come to America, nor would there have been a "Treaty of Alliance" with France in 1778. Take a fascinating look at what the old Philadelphia printer was up to during this critical six-month period of the war.

August

Women and Children in the Camp

Saturday, August 7, 11 am - 3 pm Muhlenberg Brigade - Tour Stop #2

Most of us know that men had many military duties at Valley Forge and did strenuous work like constructing the huts and fortifications. However, the women and children also had many important duties to perform that helped keep the camp running. Join them as they demonstrate some of the essential chores that supported the camp and the men fighting for our freedom.

Thompson, Thomas and Till: Female Servants in General Washington's Household

Saturday, August 21, 2 pm (1 hour) Education Center - Tour Stop #1

Elizabeth Thompson, Margaret Thomas, and Hannah Till appear frequently by name in the wartime expense account book of General Washington as paid household servants. Who exactly were these women? This program digs deeper to reveal insight into 18th century servitude, life during wartime, and even an unsolved mystery.

September

The Brigade Sutler

Saturday, September, 4, 10 am - 4 pm Muhlenberg Brigade - Tour Stop # 2

The name sutler refers to a merchant who operated a traveling store and sold items that were not available to the soldiers through the military supply system. During the Valley Forge encampment General Washington allowed sutlers to operate in the camps; however, he monitored and regulated the prices of the items being sold. Visit with one of these sutlers to learn about them and see what they sold to the soldiers of Washington's army.

Volunteer at Valley Forge National Historical Park!

Volunteers are actively involved in presenting historical and educational programs, providing informational assistance to park visitors, and preserving the historical and natural resources of the park. If you are interested in being a part of this most rewarding and enjoyable program, please contact us at www.nps.gov/vafo or (610) 783-1045.

Program	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Welcome Center	9-5	9-5	9-5	9-5	9-5	9-5	9-5
Valley Forge: A Winter Encampment	Every half-hour						
Become a Junior Ranger	9-5	9-5	9-5	9-5	9-5	9-5	9-5
• Lunch & Learn Summer Talks (Jun. 23 – Jul. 28)				12 – 1			
• Following in Their Footsteps	10:50 1:50						
Encampment Store	9-5	9-5	9-5	9-5	9-5	9-5	9-5
Mini-Bus Tours of Valley Forge	10, 12, 2	10, 12, 2			10, 12, 2	10, 12, 2	10, 12, 2
Muhlenberg Brigade	10 – 4	10 – 4	10 – 4	10 – 4	10 – 4	10 – 4	10 – 4
Ranger Talks	11:30 2:30						
• Wed. Evening Campfire Programs (Jul. 7—Aug. 11)				8:30 – 9:30			
Washington's Headquarters	9-5	9-5	9-5	9-5	9-5	9-5	9-5
Washington Memorial Chapel	1-5	9-5	9-5	9-5	9-5	9-5	9-5
Varnum's Quarters	12 – 4						12 – 4